

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Formation of Kreis Registration Departments

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. After early October 1952, registration departments, with approximately the missions of former German Army draft boards, were formed in all Kreise in East Germany. The registration departments for the Chemnitz rural and town area were housed in the building of the former Landesbank Sachsen on Ernst Thaelmann Strasse, which also quartered the district registration administration.¹
2. Of the six sections planned at each Kreis registration department, two sections were to be charged with the recruiting of officers and enlisted personnel, two with finance and classified-material administration, and two with undetermined missions. Each section was scheduled to be staffed with one section chief, who was to be either a member of the National Army or a civilian employee, and one assistant. All appointments of section chiefs and the employment of assistants were reserved to the Ministry of the Interior.
3. The Kreis registration departments were charged with the recruiting of ex-officers and -NCOs of the former German Armed Forces and volunteers of the 1932 to 1934 classes up to fitness grade III, and men of fitness grade I up to the age of 35 years. In late January 1953, they were interdicted to recruit members of the 1935 class. They were urged, however, to recruit officers for the Navy and the Air Force, engineers for the tank troops, and specialists of every type and received pertinent instructions, particularly instructions on the number of men to be recruited from Ministry of the Interior through the district registration administrations. They were apparently not subordinate to territorial administrative agencies. In their field activities they were assisted by newly established Kreis recruiting commissions, supported by local recruiting commissions.²
4. Officers assigned to the Chemnitz District Registration Administration as per 24 January 1953 included:
 Lieutenant Colonel Schmuesser, (fnu), chief of the office, who was an about 40-year-old ex-lieutenant of the former German Navy and lived at Frankenberg; Senior Lieutenant Werner, (fnu), his deputy; Senior Lieutenant Zwicker, (fnu), PK officer, about 55 years old; and Senior Lieutenant Ritter, (fnu), about 35 years old, who lived at Rohenstein/Erzgebirge. Five civilian employees also belonged to the office which was assigned

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5. In October 1952, Captain Roscher, (fnu), member of the Frankenberg KVPD, was appointed chief of the Chemnitz-Land Kreis registration department. Comrade Schirmer, (fnu), a member of the Kreis council, was temporarily detached as PK officer until the assignment of a qualified officer. [] was assigned to the department. Sections I to III were scheduled to be formed by late January 1953, and the department was scheduled to be ready for full operation by assignment of officers by mid-March 1953. A classified directive on the missions of the department was drawn up on 21 February 1953 after the visit of a major of the Ministry of the interior.⁴

6. Prior to late 1952, the Chemnitz-Land Kreis registration department had to recruit 45 men per month including 3 to 10 officer candidates, with about double the number of applicants for officer candidate schools submitting applications. Applicants for the Sea Police were dispatched to Kuehlungsborn and applicants for the Army to Grossenhain and, at special request, Frankenberg. Prior to 21 February 1953, the department received no detailed program of its recruiting missions in 1953. It was ordered to compile files of all persons fit for service from records of the Kreis office and the SED by 20 January 1953.

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1. [] Comment. Bezirk registration administrations are stationed at the capitals of the 14 administrative districts in East Germany. They control the Kreis registration offices.

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2. [] Comment. Fitness grades I to III are reported for the first time. According to unsubstantiated statements by several deserters, the territorial administrative agencies are also assigned recruiting missions.

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3. [] Comment. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Schmuesser, was head of [] at Frankenberg prior to August 1952.

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4. [] Comment. The Annex is an excerpt copy of this directive.

5. [] Comment. Kuehlungsborn is the location of the replacement battalion of the Sea Police, which inducts and trains all recruits.

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Missions of the Kreis Registrations Departments.A. General

The principal mission assigned to a Kreisregistrarabteilung (County Registration Department) (KRA) is to continue intensified general recruiting for the Kasernierte Volkspolizei (KVP), to indoctrinate the population on the necessity of the KVP in cooperation with the county recruiting commissions; and to perform administrative work pertaining to the induction of an applicant on the basis of directives of the Ministry of the Interior.

B. Specified Missions.

1. The KRA chief is subordinate directly to the chief of the Bezirksregistrar-Verwaltung District Registration Administration (BRV) and, as such, is fully responsible for the political indoctrination, the technical training and the discipline of all KRA personnel.
2. Making arrangements with the Party, the agencies of the state and the mass organizations, the KRA chief has to form and to preside over a recruiting commission whose staff includes
 - a. the KRA chief
 - b. 1 representative of the SED secretariate
 - c. 1 representative of the agencies of the state
 - d. 1 FDJ representative
 - e. 1 representative of the MfS
 - f. 1 physician.

The KRA chief has to see to it that the commission is ready to work at all times.

3. The KRA will hold a conference with the members of the commission four times monthly to draw up directives for the performance of work.
4. The KRA will organize routine recruiting in the entire county and recruit youths, 18 to 20 years old, for the KVP in the German Democratic Republic.
5. The KRA will provide for regular medical examination and political screening of applicants and, if necessary, decide on their assignment.
6. The KRA will determine the quota of recruits to be furnished by individual plants and administration, according to their structure.

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7. The KRA will assign applicants to VP branches in accordance with directives of the Bezirksregistrier Verwaltung (BRV).
8. The KRA will provide transportation to offices on the basis of instructions by the BRV.
9. The chief of Section I is responsible for the recruiting of NCOs and the registration of reserve NCOs and EM who have completed their period of service with the KVP.
10. The chief of Section II is assigned to mission to register all available reserve officers and to recruit ex-officers of the Fascist Armed Forces. He has to establish contact and arrange discussions with ex-officers, and to screen three officers on their political qualification for service with cadre units.
11. The chief of Section III is responsible for the recruiting for the KVP, the VP Navy and the VP Air Force.
12. Section V is responsible for supply missions.

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